

Appl. No. 09/765,119
Amtd. Dated February 1, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 03, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P12684/27943-00408-USP1
EUS/J/P/05-6030

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended Claim 4; Claims 2, 11, 23 and 25-30 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-10, 12-22 and 24 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner objected to Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner pointed out that there was insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the at least one link" in line 2. Applicant extremely appreciates the Examiner's careful review of the pending claims and submits that appropriate amendments have now been made to Claim 4. A favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9-10, 12-15, 17-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Christie et al. (US 6,480,493).

Assuming arguendo that the Examiner is correct in stating that the ATM switch (Fig. 1, 125) in Christie indeed contains no "call control functions" and instead receives call control functionalities from the signaling processor (Christie, Fig. 1, 110) over the signaling link (Fig. 1, 130), Applicant respectfully submits that Christie still fails to anticipate or render obvious "each and every" element of now pending independent claims. For example, independent Claim 1 is recited below for the Examiner's consideration:

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1. An arrangement for combining narrowband and broadband transport mechanisms in a communications network, comprising:
 - a first node, said first node configured to provide call control functions;
 - a second node, said second node connected to said first node by a first link and a second link, said second node configured to provide connection control functions, said second node containing no call control function and adapted to rely on said first node for said call control functions by receiving signaling information over said second link; and

wherein data information is transmitted over said first link. (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that even if the first node recited within the present application is analogous to the signaling processor disclosed within Christie and the second node recited herein is analogous to the ATM switch disclosed within Christie, the first link for transmitting signaling information and the separate second link for transmitting data information are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Christie. As a matter of facts, Christie clearly shows only one link (signaling link 130) between the signaling processor (Fig. 1, 110) and the switch (Fig. 1., 125). This is because the ATM switch in Christie is not capable of transmitting data information to the signaling processor. As further disclosed in Christie, "[o]n figures, connections that carry user information are shown as single lines and signaling links that carry signaling messages are shown as double lines (Christie, Col. 4, lines 46-48). It is clear from Figs 1 and 2 of Christie that the switch 125 is only connected to a user 115 or other elements using a user information link (i.e., 145 and 150) and not to the signaling processor (110).

Since Christie simply fails to disclose or teach a separate link for receiving signaling information and another link for transmitting data information between the first node and the second node wherein the second node contains no call control function and adapted to rely on the first node for such call control functions, Applicant respectfully submits that Christie fails to anticipate or render obvious the presently pending independent claims and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

4.) **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 7, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christie in view of Constantino et al (US 6,381,246). Claim 8 is also

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rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christie in view of Chrin et al (US 6,600,741). Applicant respectfully submits that all these claims are dependent on now allowable independent claims and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements thereto. Therefore, the allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

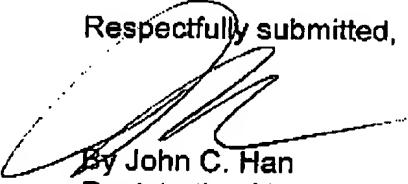
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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